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**ABRAHAM LINCOLN, JUDGE DAVID DAVIS AND JUDGE
EDWARD BATES.**

BY JOHN M. LANSDEN, OF CAIRO, ILLINOIS.

I was a student at Illinois College from January to June, 1861. I had spent almost the whole of my college course in the South, but my home being in Sangamon county, and it appearing probable that we would soon have war in the country, I left the Southern institution and entered the senior class at Illinois College early in January, 1861, and graduated there the June following. On the 30th day of January of that year, I was called by telegram to visit my father, the Rev. A. W. Lansden, who was ill at Bethany, Moultrie County, where he was visiting relatives. I took the train on the Wabash at Jacksonville, and was joined by my two sisters at Bates or New Berlin, 12 or 15 miles west of Springfield. At Springfield, Mr. Lincoln, Judge Davis and Judge Bates came aboard the train and into the car in which we were riding. They took seats almost opposite to us, Mr. Lincoln himself turning the forward seat so that the three could sit facing each other. He seemed to be in charge of his two distinguished friends. Our attention, and that of every one else in the car was, of course, attracted to them, and every one seemed anxious to hear their conversation. The noise of the train made it necessary for them to speak somewhat louder than usual, and it was therefore not difficult for us to hear much of what they said. They were on their way to Charleston, Coles County.

What also drew our attention to these public men was the stories Mr. Lincoln was telling them, and his very hearty laughter, so hearty that his whole frame seemed to join in the merriment. I may be mistaken at this distant day, but my present impression is that his two eminent companions did not join heartily in the laughter. They were interested, of course, but not as much as we who sat by and gave the closest attention. The first political speech I ever heard was one made by Mr.

Lincoln at Waverly, in Morgan County. It may have been during the campaign of 1852, between Pierce and Scott. I do not now recall anything that he said. I do remember, however, just how he appeared and looked as our large wagon, fixed up for the occasion, was driven close to the crowd of people who were listening to him. We were just starting home, it being somewhat late in the afternoon, and the cheering and hurraing greatly interested me, who had never heard so much of it before. He was dressed in a black suit and appeared very much indeed as he now appears in what is said to be the earliest picture of him now in existence, one taken, I believe, in 1848. I had seen him now and then at Springfield, but did not know much of his habit of telling stories; and seeing and hearing what I had that day on the train from Springfield to Decatur, I wrote back soon afterward to some of my friends in the South and told them of my seeing and hearing Mr. Lincoln on the train, and how his stories and laughter seemed so out of keeping with the condition of our country, of which he was within a month to become the president. I need not say that I came to understand it better afterwards.

About the time our train reached Mechanicsburg, fifteen or twenty miles east of Springfield, some one handed him a telegram, stating that at Memphis they had fired one hundred guns in honor of the withdrawal of Texas from the Union. He read it and then handed it to Judge Bates, saying, "Yes, yes, she came in afiring and she goes our afiring." He recalled the fact that when Texas was admitted into the Union, December 29, 1845, such guns were fired in many parts of the country.

A little while before we reached Decatur we passed the place, on the south, where Mr. Lincoln had made those rails in 1830, and he told his companions about it. I cannot, of course, recall all that he said, but this I remember very distinctly. He said that he and the person working with him, whose name he must have mentioned, and which was, no doubt, John Hanks, made a sufficient number of rails to fence about ten acres of ground. That of the two he was somewhat the stronger, and probably made more of the rails than did the other. This was in January, 1861, and the rail-making had occurred in 1830, about thirty years before; and Mr. Lincoln closed his account by saying that he felt quite sure that he could not identify any of the rails, but he added, in that same jocular way, "That was about thirty years ago, and it is hardly to be expected that I

could identify any of the rails now." Judge Bates became Mr. Lincoln's first Attorney General and Judge Davis, by appointment of Mr. Lincoln, became a member of the Supreme Court of the United States, December 8, 1862.

Here are some extracts from the Illinois State Journal and the State Register, of Springfield, in reference to Mr. Lincoln's trip to Charleston at that time:

"Mr. Lincoln left town yesterday morning by the Great Western road for the purpose of making a visit to his step-mother who resides near Charleston, in Coles County. He expects to return on Friday evening's train * * * * Judge Bates of St. Louis, arrived in this city on Tuesday evening and remained here during yesterday." (Daily State Journal, Thursday, January 31, 1861.)

"Mr. Lincoln, with Honorable Edward Bates of St. Louis and several leading Republicans of this and other states left here for Charleston, Coles county, yesterday. This visit of the president-elect with such company, to the quiet town of Charleston is attributed to a desire for rest, not to be had in Springfield, where the incoming dispenser of place and pap 'is run to death' by eager and hungry crowds of patriots 'who carried the lamps' and split the rails in the late canvass." (Daily State Register, Springfield, Thursday, January 31st, 1861.)

"Mr. Lincoln returned from Coles County yesterday morning. He reached Charleston on Wednesday evening, and spending the night at Senator Marshall's, rode out the next morning six miles in the country to the residence of his step-mother, where he remained the rest of the day. While there he paid a visit to the grave of his father. In the evening, he rode back to town in company with his aged relative, and at the urgent request of the citizens of the place held an impromptu reception at one of the public halls. A large number of the ladies and gentlemen took advantage of the opportunity to shake him by the hand. Though called upon Mr. Lincoln declined to make any remarks shadowing forth his views of the present state of the country or the policy of the incoming administration. His visit was pleasant, and in every way most satisfactory." (Daily State Journal, Saturday, February 2, 1861.)

It was but ten days after this trip to Charleston that he left Springfield for Washington, starting from the same station and by the same railroad.